

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LONDON 11750 301816Z

64

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05

/069 W

----- 004772

R 301759Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3352

INFO AMEMBASSY LAGOS

DIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

AMCONSUL DOUALA

AMCONSUL KADUNA

AMCONSUL IBADAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 11750

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PGOV, PINS, PINT, NI

SUBJ: FCO LOOKE AT LAGOS

1. FCO WEST AFRICA DEPARTMENT IS GENERALLY DISHEARTENED BY THE COUP IN NIGERIA. AS ONE OF A HANDFUL OF MODERATE AFRICAN LEADERS WHO ENJOYS A MEASURE OF INTERNATIONAL PRESTIGE, GOWON STOOD AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO RADICAL AND VOLATILE POLITICS IN AFRICA. HIS DEPARTURE DISCREDITS THE CONTINENT AND, THEY SAY, IS CERTAIN TO INTRODUCE A PERIOD OF POLITICAL INSTABILITY IN NIGERIA WHICH THE

NATION CAN SCARCELY AFFORD AND WHICH WILL LIKELY REOPEN THE WOUNDS OF RECENT HISTORY. FCO OFFICIALS CHARACTERIZE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LONDON 11750 301816Z

THE PROBABLE NEW LINE-UP IN LAGOS AS MEDIOCRE, NARROW-

BASED, AND SURE TO ALIENATE BOTH THE YTUBAS AND IBOS.

THEY DO NOT AT THE MOMENT ANTICIPATE RADICAL CHANGES IN NIGERIAN ECONOMIC OR FOREIGN POLICY THAT WOULD ADVERSELY AFFECT US AND UK INTERESTS, BUT THEY DO EXPECT CURRENT DOMESTIC PROBLEMS -- CORRUPTION, LABOR UNREST, MISMANAGE-

MENT WAA TO GET WORSE.

2. ONE OFFICIAL, WHO KNOWS MURITALA MOHAMMED, FOUND NOTHING GOOD TO SAY ABOUT HIM AND PAINTS A LESS THAN CONGENIAL PICTURE: ERRATIC, EMOTIONAL, TEMPERAMENTAL, VICIOUS, RUTHLESS, ELITIST, INCOMPETENT, QUIXOTIC, RACIST. HE WAS GENEROUS ONLY TO THE EXTENT OF SAYING THAT MOHAMMED, ALTHOUGH MUSLIM, WILL NOT NECESSARILY MARCH TO AN ARAB DRUM. BUT, HE SAID, "HE CAN'T LAST".

RICHARDSON

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT OVERTHROW, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975LONDON11750
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750263-0865
From: LONDON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975079/aaaaahmd.tel
Line Count: 80
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 JUN 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <06 NOV 2003 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FCO LOOKE AT LAGOS
TAGS: PGOV, PINS, PINT, NI, (GOWON, YAKUBU), (MOHAMMED, MURITALA)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006